



United to Improve  
America's Health®

June 12, 2002

The Honorable William Thomas  
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee  
U. S. House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

On behalf of VHA Inc., I am writing to express support for the provider provisions in the draft House Republican Medicare legislation, pending final review of the specific language. VHA is a nationwide alliance of more than 2,200 community-owned healthcare systems and physicians. By participating in one of the nation's largest networks, VHA members have access to services and products designed to improve clinical and financial performance.

VHA is especially pleased with provisions in the Medicare package that would provide needed relief to our nation's hospitals. At a time when hospitals are facing extraordinary new challenges and experiencing increased financial pressures, it is crucial they are protected from further cuts in Medicare payments. Should the final bill include the draft hospital provisions, VHA will work hard with you and your committee to promote its passage this year.

Thank you for your leadership in drafting this important legislation and for taking steps necessary to ensure that hospitals are adequately equipped to care for our nation's seniors.

Sincerely,

Edward N. Goodman  
Vice President, Public Policy